Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Cancelled).

2 (Currently Amended). An isolated protein which is capable of binding to tumor necrosis factor receptor-associated 2 protein (TRAF2), said protein comprising:

(A) a polypeptide ~~consisting of the amino acid sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:3; or

(B) a variant ~~consisting of an amino acid sequence~~ that ~~is at least 90% identical with~~ has no more than ten amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, wherein said variant is capable of binding to TRAF2.

3 (Original). The isolated protein of claim 2, which is a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

4-19 (Cancelled).

20 (Previously Presented). A composition comprising the isolated protein of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or auxiliary agent.

21 (Previously Presented). A molecule having the binding portion of an antibody capable of binding to the

portion of said isolated protein of claim 2 that is said polypeptide of (A) or said variant of (B).

22 (Original). The molecule of claim 21, which is an antibody.

23 (Original). The molecule of claim 22, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

24 (Previously Presented). A composition comprising the molecule of claim 21, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, diluent, or auxiliary agent.

25-37 (Cancelled).

38 (Previously Presented). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, wherein said protein and said variant are each capable of binding to a component of the NF-κB complex selected from the group consisting of IKappaB kinase complex associated protein (IKAP), IKappaB kinase-alpha (IKK-alpha), IKappaB kinase-beta (IKK-beta), IKappaB kinase-gamma (IKK-gamma) and NF-κB inducing kinase (NIK).

39-41 (Cancelled).

42 (Currently Amended). An isolated protein in accordance with claim 2, comprising a variant of the polypeptide ~~consisting of the amino acid sequence~~ of SEQ ID NO:3, which variant ~~consists of an~~ has no more than ten amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence ~~that is at least 90%~~

~~identical with~~ of SEQ ID NO:3, and which variant is capable of binding to TRAF2.

43 (Cancelled)

44 (Previously Presented). A molecule having the binding portion of an antibody capable of binding to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:3.

45 (Previously Presented). The molecule of claim 44, which is an antibody.

46 (Previously Presented). The molecule of claim 45, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

47 (Cancelled).

48 (Currently Amended). The isolated protein of claim ~~40~~2, wherein said variant of (B) has no more than five amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

49 (Currently Amended). The isolated protein of claim ~~47~~2, wherein each said change from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 is a conservative substitution selected from among the substitutions in the following list:

Original Residue	Substitution
Ala	Gly;Ser
Arg	Lys

Asn	Gln;His
Asp	Glu
Cys	Ser
Gln	Asn
Glu	Asp
Gly	Ala;Pro
His	Asn;Gln
Ile	Leu;Val
Leu	Ile;Val
Lys	Arg;Gln;Glu
Met	Leu;Tyr;Ile
Phe	Met;Leu;Tyr
Ser	Thr
Thr	Ser
Trp	Tyr
Tyr	Trp;Phe
Val	Ile;Leu

or a conservative substitution that is an exchange within one of the following five groups:

Small aliphatic, nonpolar or slightly polar residues: Ala, Ser, Thr~~(~~, Pro, Gly~~)~~;

Polar negatively charged residues and their amides: Asp, Asn, Glu, Gln;

Polar, positively charged residues: His, Arg, Lys;

Large aliphatic nonpolar residues: Met, Leu, Ile, Val ~~(~~, Cys~~)~~; and

Large aromatic residues: Phe, Tyr, Trp.

50 (Previously Presented). The isolated protein of claim 49, wherein said variant has no more than 5 of said amino acid changes from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.